March 19, 1991

Dear Eric,

I am sorry I am not able to join you this time despite the fact that you arranged the date specifically to suit my (previously operative) schedule. The series of local elections which will take place in early April have turned out to be much more time consuming than my understanding of it. In order to devote more of my personal time for "my" candidates, I simply could not find another alternative. (My appearances still draw fairly big crowds in Hiroshima — modesty aside.)

In Sidney, I talked with a colleague from Portugal. He was successful in adding a paragraph in the resolutions (one of) we have passed. I believe that you can obtain the text from the Socialist International office in London.

While in Sidney, I also talked with Mr. Michihiko Ikeda, Consul-General of Japan to Sidney who also has responsibility on the Northern Territory. I was appalled at first by his lack of knowledge about East Timor, but this could be a blessing in disguise. Since he is considered something of an odd-ball within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by speaking his mind sometimes, he may decide to support our cause. I am sending him and his aide selected literature on E.T.

Again, I am very sorry that I had to cancel my trip to New York. I wish every success for your mission! I promise you that I will continue to work with Mr. Eda, Ms. Furusawa, Mr. Kijima and other in Japan so that the justice would prevail in East Timor soon.

Sincerely,

Tad

(TADATOSHI AKIBA
MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)